

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MAZATL 00381 152347Z
ACTION SCS-05

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: CARR, CGEN, BL, MX
SUBJ: REPORT TO SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE ON
AMCIT PRISONERS IN MEXICO

REF: MEXICO'S 13459

1. CONSULATE DID NOT RECEIVE REFERENCE C (MEXICO'S 1159
OF FEBRUARY 1).

2. REFERENCE B HAS BEEN CAREFULLY REVIEWED, AND THERE
FOLLOWS AN UPDATE:

(A) ALTHOUGH PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS OF MAZATLAN PRISON
REMAIN SAME, RECENT RETURN OF FORMER DIRECTOR HAS BROUGHT
ABOUT ADMINISTRATIVE CHANGES FOR THE BETTER. MAIL AND
TELEPHONE CALLS ARE ACCORDED PROPER TREATMENT, AND AMCIT
PRISONERS ARE PARTICIPATING IN MAKING HANDCRAFT ITEMS FOR
THE PRISONER BOOTH RECENTLY INSTALLED AT THE MAZATLAN ARTS
AND CRAFT CENTER. MORALE HAS GREATLY IMPROVED AMONG THE
APPROXIMATELY 31 PRISONERS ELIGIBLE FOR TRANSFER UNDER
TREATY. THE "COMMISSION" CONTINUES TO OPERATE THE PRISON
BUT THERE HAVE BEEN NO COMPLAINTS FOR SOME TIME AND NO
REPORTS OF AMCIT PRISONERS BEING PUNISHED FOR NON-COMPLIANCE
WITH THEIR REGULATIONS. THIS MAY BE DUE TO DIRECTOR HAVING
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PAGE 02 MAZATL 00381 152347Z

ISSUED ULTIMATUM TO COMMISSION TO EASE UP ON AMCITS, AFTER
HAVING RECEIVED NUMEROUS COMPLAINTS. MAZATLAN IS ONLY PRISON
THIS JURISDICTION OPERATED BY COMMISSION. LOCAL AMERICAN-
TRAINED PHYSICIAN, DR. GUZMAN, CONTINUES MONITOR HEALTH OF
AMCIT PRISONERS IN MAZATLAN AND DONATES SERVICES TO THOSE
UNABLE TO PAY.

(B) ON THE OTHER HAND, LA PAZ HAS NEW REHABILITATION CENTER, REPLETE WITH MACHINERY AND EQUIPMENT SO THAT ALL PRISONERS CAN WORK. THE INSTITUTION IS HEADED BY A PROFESSIONALLY TRAINED DIRECTOR WHOSE WORK IS NOTEWORTHY COMPARED TO OTHER DIRECTORS IN THE MAZATLAN JURISDICTION. MEDICAL CARE IS AVAILABLE, AND WHEN REQUIRED, PATIENTS ARE HOSPITALIZED AND ARE TAKEN OUT FOR DENTAL TREATMENT.

(C) THE OVERCROWDED STATE PENITENTIARY IN CULIACAN WAS RECENTLY PARTIALLY DESTROYED BY RIOTS AND FIRE. WORK IS NOW UNDERWAY TO RESTORE AND ENLARGE THE DESTROYED AREA. GUARDS WHO SHOWED INDIFFERENCE TO THE RIOTING AND FIRE HAVE BEEN DISCHARGED. THE MEXICAN PRISONERS WHO CAUSED THE TROUBLE HAVE BEEN SEGREGATED. THE GOVERNOR HAS ASSIGNED THE THIRD-RANKING OFFICER OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT TO MONITOR THE SITUATION AMONG THE AMCITS AND TO INSURE THEIR SAFETY AND WELL-BEING. MEDICAL CARE IS GENERALLY AVAILABLE.

(D) THE MUNICIPAL PRISON IN LOS MOCHIS, ALSO OVERCROWDED, WHERE THE AMCITS ARE INCARCERATED, SUFFERS FROM ADMINISTRATIVE NEGLECT DUE TO THE FREQUENT ABSENCES OF THE DIRECTOR. ALTHOUGH THE PRISON HAS A HEALTH ROOM, PRESIDED OVER BY A PRACTICAL NURSE, HEALTH CARE BY AMERICAN STANDARDS IS LOW. A LOCAL DOCTOR MAKES VISITS AS NEEDED.

(E) THE PRISON IN TEPIC, WHICH HAS NO AMCIT PRISONERS AT THIS
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PAGE 03 MAZATL 00381 152347Z

TIME, IS BY COMPARISON TO MAZATLAN A VERY GOOD FACILITY, WITH MEDICAL AND OTHER SERVICES AVAILABLE ON REQUEST.

3. THERE HAVE BEEN NO REPORTS OF PHYSICAL ABUSE WITHIN THE PRISONS IN THIS JURISDICTION FOR THE PAST EIGHTEEN MONTHS...
FOOD, HOWEVER, IN ALL THE PRISONS IS SUBSTANDARD.

4. THE CONCERTED DRIVE AGAINST DRUG TRAFFICKERS BY MILITARY, WITH POLICE COOPERATION, HAS CAUSED WIDESPREAD VIOLENCE IN SINALOA WITH WELL-ARMED TRAFFICKERS FIGHTING IT OUT WITH AUTHORITIES. POPPY FIELD DESTRUCTION SWELLED UNEMPLOYMENT, CAUSING THE FORMER POPPY GROWERS TO RESORT TO BANDITRY. ALTHOUGH NO "GREEN ANGELS" HAVE BEEN OBSERVED ON THE INTERNATIONAL HIGHWAY FOR SOMETIME IN THE SEGMENT BETWEEN MAZATLAN AND LOS MOCHIS, THE HIGHWAY IS PATROLLED BY THE MILITARY. TURISMO IN SINALOA IS HELPFUL IN PROVIDING ADVICE, BUT WHERE FUNDS OR CONTACTS ARE REQUIRED THEY ARE FOUND WANTING. ON THE OTHER HAND, TURISMO IN LA PAZ, BAJA CALIFORNIA SUR, RECENTLY PROVIDED GASOLINE COUPONS AND FUNDS TO TWO AMCIT ROBBERY VICTIMS.

5. THE EMBASSY IS AWARE OF THE TWO BODIES RECENTLY IDENTIFIED

AS HERBERT MOORE AND CHRISTOPHER TREMLETT (SEE MAZATLAN'S 0349 AND 0350) WHO WERE REPORTED MISSING IN NOVEMBER 1975, AND THE POSSIBILITY THAT THERE MAY BE OTHERS. OBTAINING DEATH CERTIFICATES AND POLICE REPORTS IN SUCH CASES AND BIRD-DOGGING THE RESPONSIBLE OFFICIALS REQUIRE COUNTLESS HOURS OF OFFICER TIME. CONSIDERATION MUST ALSO BE GIVEN TO FACT THAT DISTANCES INVOLVED IN REGULAR PRISONER AND RELATED OFFICIAL VISITATIONS, ON SINGLE LANE MOUNTAINOUS HIGHWAYS, REQUIRE ABSENCE IN FIELD OF ONE OFFICER FOR AVERAGE OF 50 HOURS PER MONTH. ALSO OF 62 PRISONERS IN MAZATLAN DISTRICT, ONLY APPROXIMATELY 31 ARE ELIGIBLE FOR TREATY PARTICIPATION. THE REMAINDER ALL HAVE JUDICIAL ACTIONS PENDING. AFTER DEPARTURE FOR STATES OF FIRST PRISONER CONTINGENT, CONGRESS, FAMILIES AND FRIENDS WILL BECOME VERY ACTIVE IN EFFORTS SPEED UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 MAZATL 00381 152347Z

UP JUDICIAL PROCESS ON BEHALF REMAINING GROUP. MANY STATUS OF CASE INQUIRIES WILL RESULT.

6. AS TREATY TIME APPROACHES, PRISONERS ARE REQUESTING MORE SERVICES; ALSO MORE TIME WILL HAVE TO BE SPENT WITH VISITING TEAMS MAKING ARRANGEMENTS FOR TREATY IMPLEMENTATION. WITH INCREASED DEA MANPOWER AND MORE SOPHISTICATED TECHNIQUES BEING USED BY ALL FORCES, NUMBER OF ARRESTS IN EXPECTED TO INCREASE. AS RESULT OF ANNOUNCEMENT BY SINALOA FEDERAL TOURISM DELEGATE OF INCREASED FLIGHT FROM U.S. TO MAZATLAN WELFARE AND WHEREABOUTS CASES WILL INCREASE.

7. CONSULATE HAS BEEN ABLE PROVIDE HIGH QUALITY CONSULAR SERVICES WHILE FULLY STAFFED BUT MUST HAVE OFFICER POSITION, NOW VACANT, FILLED AT EARLIEST POSSIBLE DATE TO ENABLE US CONTINUE PROVIDE ESSENTIAL SERVICES.
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